



Parks and Recreation Board
Tuesday, August 22, 2006
Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Parks Board was held on Tuesday, August 22, 2006 at the Boards and Commissions Conference Room, 301 W. 2nd St. Room 1101.

Board Members Present: Board Chair, Linda Guerrero, Board Vice-Chair, Jeb Boyd, Secretary/Parliamentarian, Mark Vane, Marilyn Bostick, Clint Small, Rosemary Castleberry and Jeff Francell.

Board Members Absent: Hector Ortiz

Staff Members Present: Warren Struss, Ricardo Soliz, Stuart Strong and Tino Garcia.

A. Meeting Called to order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Linda Guerrero, at 6:16 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

Board Member Francell moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Board Member Bostick. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Citizen Communication:

Lorraine Atherton, Zilker Park Neighborhood Association expressed her concerns regarding the new Zachary Scott Lease. She indicated that a new lease was negotiated to alienate parkland (allowing the building or construction on dedicated parkland) that was protected under the original lease drafted in the 1980's. She said the neighborhood would not be able to support, in the upcoming bond election, the alienated parkland or the proposed installation of a 90 ft tower.

D. Discussion and Action Items

1. Make recommendation to the City Council to approve a Use Agreement for a waterline on parkland near Highway 183 and East 51 street.

The Department of Public Works, on behalf of the Austin Water Utility, is requesting the dedication of a permanent and temporary use of easements for the construction, operation and maintenance of a proposed 24' Waterline as part of a relocation project within TX DOT US HGWY 183 Roadway Widening and Reconstruction Project, CIP No. 3960-

227-7325. The project contains a total of 0.212 acres and the temporary workspace easement of 0.092 acres will be returned to the Parks and Recreation Department upon completion of the project. Tree mitigation will also be paid for or be included in the construction work. They will also provide a water meter in the Parkland for a disc golf course that will be developed in the near future and the area disturbed will be re-vegetated with native grass. Board Member Boyt moved to approve the request, seconded by Board Member Francell. Motion carried 7-0.

E. Other Business

1. Park Police Brief – Chief Alvin Shaw/ Director Bruce Mills

Police Chief Shaw briefed the Board on the status of Park Police Unit. He reported on the consolidation of four separate divisions which was established under the Public Safety and Emergency Management Department (PSEM). The new name of the Austin Park Police Division is now the Austin Park Public Safety Division whose mission is to provide law enforcement and public assistance to park patrons and staff and to promote a safer park environment. They have three basic areas of operations - Vehicle Patrol, Bike Patrol and Marine Enforcement. He reported on the staffing levels as of July 2006 and provided a detailed breakdown of the unit's job responsibilities. Questions from the Board included:

- How many park police officers are double certified?
- How often does certification occur?
- What are the peak seasons on crime?
- How many patrol boats do we have on the lake and how many patrol officers are assigned to them?
- How many times does APD respond to a park call?
- How many times does our park police unit respond to an APD call in our parks?
- What is the breakdown of bilingual staff including the number of other languages that are spoken?
- What is racial/ethnic breakdown on the park police patrolling the park?
- When did park police become involved in ARCH?
- What is the status of the roving leader program?
- What are the current crime trends or activities that are beginning to increase?

Director Bruce Mills was asked to provide information to the Board regarding the recent Coy report. He highlighted that some the recommendations to PSEM included things such as infrastructure, training, certification, communications, consistent procedures, standardizing uniforms, staffing levels, boat staffing and secondary employment.

2. Travis County Green Print – Anjuli Kaul, Director of Special Projects, Trust for Public Land, briefed the Board on Greenprinting - a process that is based on GIS. The process is used to create a model that includes a layer of stakeholder input to identify priorities that the community wants. The goal is to create a road map to public investment in parks and open space. A conservation vision was created that helps

communities identify land for protection and restoration. In Travis County, the four major areas that surfaced as a result of the stakeholder input were: 1) Recreational Opportunities, 2) Water Quality and Quantity, 3) Sensitive and Rare Environmental Features and 4) Cultural Resources. The prioritization was made by the GreenPrint Technical Advisory Team made up of members from Travis County, City of Austin, Capital Area Council of Governments, the University of Texas, and Trust for Public Land. The needs identified in Travis County indicated that approximately 22,000 acres of highest to moderate priority lands need to be acquired and protected. At the current land value, this means that over \$500 million in conservation funds are required to protect the highest priority lands. Ms. Kaul summarized by indicating that the next steps are to complete the report, detailing the process, resources and constraints and to expand community and political outreach. From a regional standpoint, the next step is to complete a four county greenprint (Hays, Williamson, Caldwell and Bastrop) and to work with LCRA to provide partial funding for the four county greenprint.

3. Director's Report

Director Struss reported on the following:

- Bids will be awarded at the August 31st City Council meeting regarding the Gus Garcia Recreation Center.
- Opening bids will be conducted on September 7th regarding the Turner Roberts Recreation Center.
- Roy Guerrero Colorado River Park will be bid within the next few months, probably the end of the year.
- ACL will be held September 15-17th at Zilker Park and the Rolling Stones will perform in October.
- The lake study will be conducted as soon as the funds are secured.

4. Items from Board Members

Land and Facilities Subcommittee: Board Member Boyt reported on the issue regarding off-leash park areas and indicated that it involved further study and additional stakeholder input.

Navigation Subcommittee: N/A

Programs Subcommittee: Board Chair Guerrero passed out a resolution on the BCCP Citizen Advisory Committee in which the committee supports the Austin Water Utility proposal to move Water Treat Plant 4 to the Cortana alternate site contingent on specific conditions. Board Chair Guerrero said that the resolution has been finalized and would be going to the Environmental Board for review and then to the City Council for adoption.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.